

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 17, line 16 and carries over to Page 18, line 6 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Suppose the 40 animals transferred to Feedlot A are eventually split into two groups having 10 and 30 animals, and that the group of 10 animals is sold to "Packer [[A]] 1" while the group of 30 animals is sold to "Packer [[B]] 2". Two additional passports are created to document these transfers, in preferred embodiments, and are illustrated in **FIG. 1** as "Passport 7" and "Passport 8", respectively. Each of these uniquely-numbered passports will refer to the previous passport for its covered animals, which in both cases will be passport "04004321" (shown in **FIG. 3A**). Packer 1 can therefore trace the origin of its 10 head of cattle back to the transfer of 40 cattle from Auction Barn to Feedlot A, and then back to the transfer of 100 cattle from Ranch A to Auction Barn. Similarly, Packer 2 can trace its 30 head of cattle back through the sequence of transfers to the original 100 head of cattle from Ranch A. --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 24, line 21 and carries over to Page 25, line 23 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- The processing of Blocks **510 - 540** may iterate, as denoted as **550**, as subsequent transfers occur for covered animals or animal groups. Eventually, when animals covered by a passport (or sequence of passports, as described herein) are slaughtered, products (meat, in particular) from those animals are delivered to retailers (Block **560**). According to the Farm Act of 2002, country of origin information must be provided to the retailer (Block **570**) by suppliers of covered commodities, such that the retailer can affix a country of origin label (Block **580**) or

similar indicia. The animal passport techniques disclosed herein enable this country of origin information to be uniquely represented by the animal passports (and the transfers represented therein). Thus, a supplier of the animal products delivered at Block ~~[[550]]~~ 560 preferably provides the retailer with a new passport of the form disclosed herein that documents the transfer to the retailer; or, if passports as disclosed herein are used only to document transfers of live animals, the supplier preferably provides a copy of the most-recent passport associated with the animals from which the animal products originated. (Alternatively, rather than providing copies of previously-issued passports, suppliers might provide retailers with passport numbers associated with those passports. Such passport numbers, having been recorded in a registry at Block 540, may be used to retrieve information usable for determining country of origin information. See, for example, the description of **FIG. 6**, discussing how information may be retrieved from a third-party registry.) --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 30, lines 8 - 19 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Additional information recorded in the passport repository for each passport preferably includes: the date 702 of the associated animal transfer; a name or identifier or the transferor(s) 703 and transferee(s) 704; the number of head 705 that were transferred; a yes/no indication 706 ~~[[705]]~~ (which may be indicated using a bitstring or other shorthand representation) as to whether the animals were physically located within the United States (or were in transit through Canada as allowed by §282 (a)(2)(A) of the 2002 Farm Act) at all times relevant to this passport; and a list 707 of any previous passport numbers that were identified (preferably, by the transferor) on the

subject passport. --